



# The Phoenix Post

News You Can Use

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## Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh visits Campbell Bay



PORT BLAIR, NOV 13: Admiral Karambir Singh, PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) visited Andaman Nicobar Islands on 13 Nov 20. The CNS arrived at Car Nicobar, was received by Lt Gen Manoj Pande, AVSM, VSM, Commander-in-Chief Andaman & Nicobar Command (CINCAN) and thereafter proceeded to Campbell Bay. He was briefed on the operational preparedness and infrastructure aspects of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) including readiness levels of the Command in the prevalent security scenario. CNS reviewed the operational assets of the Command and expressed satisfaction at the level of readiness.

During the interaction with troops of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, DSC and GREF as well as Defence civilians, CNS complimented all ranks for their performance and exhorted them to continue the good work and maintain high state of alertness and operational readiness in the prevailing security situation along the Northern borders. The CNS also advised personnel to take adequate protective measures against the COVID pandemic, particularly in view of the remote location, limited medical facilities and challenges of accessibility. The Chief of Naval Staff conveyed good wishes to the troops and their families on the occasion of Diwali and distributed sweets to all ranks

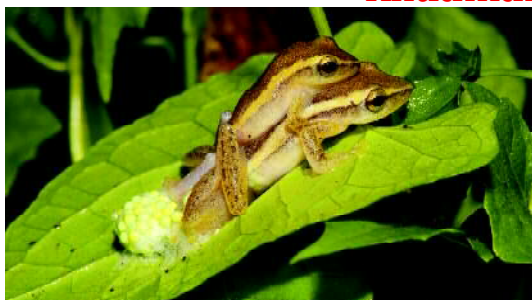
## Vatika begins to attract visitors to buy agri-products



PORT BLAIR, NOV 12: The Agriculture Departmental Sale outlet "VATIKA" situated besides Sagarika Emporium, Udyog Parisar at Middle Point is frequented by many tourists and general public on daily basis. Agricultural products ranging from virgin coconut oil, spices

(Contd. on Page 3.)

## ZSI team finds a new Tree-frog genus from Andaman Islands



Port Blair, Nov 13: A team of Scientists and researchers from Zoological Survey of India, Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair in collaboration with University of Delhi, has discovered a genus of tree frog from Andaman Islands and the northeast. The new genus Rohanixalus named after the Sri Lankan tax-

onomist Rohan Pethiyagoda. Dr. Chandrakasan Sivaperuman, Joint Director informed here today that this is the first time a tree frog species, Rohanixalus vittatus (Striped Bubble-nest Frog), is reported from the Andaman Islands. Even though the amphibian fauna of Andamans has been frequently surveyed in the recent

years, this frog was so far not reported, despite being commonly found in wayside areas of North and Middle Andaman Islands. New findings of this frog, indicate that the amphibian inventory of the region is still far from being complete.

The scientists studied various aspects, such as the external features, (Contd. on Page 3.)

## Bhasker urges allotment of additional land for Christian graveyard

PORT BLAIR, NOV 13: The former General Secretary, ANTCC, G. Bhasker has urged the Lt. Governor to allot additional land for burial ground for the Christian community residing in and around Port Blair. In his letter to the Lt. Governor, copies of which have been sent also to the Chief Secretary and the Dy. Commissioner, the Congress leader has brought to



their notice the dire need for additional burial space for the Christian community which is faced with the acute shortage of space to bury their dead. Bhasker has suggested area behind Police Line / ALWH Quarters, Corbyn's Cove Mazar Pahad and Attampahad for the allotment of 2-3 hectares of land for the purpose.

## MoU signed between NSRY and ITI



PORT BLAIR, NOV 13: HQANC endorses the need to augment various technical skillset at Andaman

& Nicobar Islands and towards realizing this goal, it is keen to enable the local populace by providing wider exposure at their ship repair facility. Towards facilitating this, the Naval Ship Repair Yard (Port Blair) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government Industrial Training Institute, Dollygunj, Port Blair for implementation of Industrial Exposure Trade Training Programme (IETT). The MoU is in line with the GOI

"Skill India" initiative and will provide hands-on exposure to (Contd. on Page 2.)

The former MP, Bishnu Pada Ray has brought to the notice of the Secretary PBMC the appalling conditions wherein the sanitary workers of the Council are compelled to perform their duties. The poor workers are not issued the necessary footwear, uniform, gloves etc. They are also not being given the mandatory breakfast. According to Ray, the Secretary has assured to take immediate necessary action in this regard.



## Owaisi party entry into Bengal likely to unsettle TMC's sway over minorities

Kolkata, Nov 13 : With Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM announcing that it would contest Bengal polls, having bagged five seats in neighbouring Bihar, political arithmetic, in all likelihood, is set to witness a major change as TMC's sway over minority votes seems to be up for a stiff challenge.

The Mamata Banerjee-led party, which had been the sole beneficiary of minority votes since the defeat of the Left Front in 2011, however, tried to put up a brave face, arguing that Owaisi's influence on Muslims is limited to Hindi- and Urdu-speaking communities that make for just six per cent of Muslim electorate in the state. Muslims comprise 30 per cent of West Bengal's voters. The state has the highest number

of Muslim electorate in the country after Kashmir.

A deciding factor in nearly 100-110 seats in the 294-member Assembly, minorities especially the Muslims, till 2019, have acted as a bulwark of the TMC against its rivals, with most of them voting in favour of the party, considering it to be a "credible" force that can resist saffron surge. Talking about the Telangana-based party's detailed plan for Mission West Bengal, its national spokesperson Asim Waqar said that the outfit has already set up units in 22 out of the 23 districts of the state. "We will fight assembly polls in Bengal. We are preparing our strategy. We have registered our presence in 22 out of the 23 districts of the state. We think, as a political party, we can make deep inroads into the state," Waqar said.

(Contd. From. on Page 1.)

### MoU signed between NSRY....



the interns in the field of Marine Repair Trades. It will be an opportunity for the IIT trainees to practically experience overhauling and repairs of marine equipment fitted onboard ships as also widen their horizon for future job prospects. This internship is expected to not only arouse interest in the trainees to join the Defence Industrial establishments but also boost their chances of being included in the pool of skilled workforce towards managing the increasingly growing requirements of Indian Naval and other ships at ANI. The MoU was signed on 06 Nov 20 between Commodore Superintendent of Yard, Commodore Iqbal Singh Grewal representing HQ ANC and Venketesh CH, Principal, Govt. ITI, Dollygunj, in the presence of Krishan Kumar, IAS Secretary (Labour Employment & Training) and Madhusudan Baidya, Labour Commissioner.

## Resentment brewing in D/pur against prolonged containment zones, BJP threatens protest

RABINDRANATH BISWAS

DIGLIPUR, Nov. 13: With the considerable decline in the corona positive cases in Diglipur, the people are expecting that the containment zones will be removed and barricades lifted to give the people much needed respite from the month-long confinement in their homes. But, it seems that, it may take some more time for the administration to lift the containment zones in Diglipur.

Speaking to The Phoenix Post, Ashit Baroi, District President, BJP, North Andaman, said that it has been almost one month since Diglipur was declared containment zone in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Initially his party men agreed to the Deputy Commissioner's directions in view of the prevailing threat of the pandemic and gave wholehearted support to her. In fact, amid severe problem, people didn't lose their



patience and somehow managed to sustain their families. But, now, their money reserves have diminished and now if they are not able to come out and work, how they will survive, the District President said. People are now on the verge of starvation. Their daily wage earning is being severely affected, businesses are adversely affected for the last 7 months, people are being stopped and prevented at barricades from moving in connection to their basic works. They are gradually los-

ing their patience, they are becoming restless and angry, Ashit Baroi said.

Baroi said that, the gradual decrease in the number of COVID-19 positive cases in Diglipur is a good sign and indication towards opportunities and possibilities. It's high time the containment zones are removed and barricades lifted to let the people lead a normal life. The BJP leader has shot a letter to the Deputy Commissioner, N & M Andaman today warning that he will be left with no other option than to come out on street if the demand of the people is not met by 15th Nov. Public protest will be staged from 16th Nov onwards to press for their demand, he said.

Asked to comment, an official from the local administration said that the corona positive cases are declining and it is a good sign; but they can't afford to be complacent.

## WHO to set up Global Centre on Traditional Medicine in India: PM Modi

New Delhi, November 13 (ANI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that the World Health Organisation is establishing the WHO Global Centre on Traditional Medicine in India.

Prime Minister Modi was speaking after inaugurating the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar (Gujarat) and National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur (Rajasthan), via video conferencing. "World Health Organisation is establishing the WHO Global Centre on Traditional Medicine in India, to strengthen the research on traditional medicines," the Prime Minister said. The Prime Minister also said that this time Ayurveda Diwas is special for Gujarat and Rajasthan and also for youth.

"In Jamnagar today, Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar gets national importance. While in Jaipur, National Institute of Ayurveda, is dedicated as a Deemed University," PM Modi said. The institutes inaugurated today are premier institutions of Ayurveda in the country. The Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar has been conferred the status of an Institution of National Importance (INI) by an Act of the Parliament, and the National Institute of Ayurveda Jaipur that of an Institution Deemed to be University by the University Grants Commission, said an official statement. Speaking on Ayurveda, the Prime Minister said that it is a legacy of India.

"Ayurveda is a legacy of India whose

expansion leads to the welfare of humanity. Every Indian will be happy that our ancient knowledge is also making other countries prosper. Ayurveda is included in Brazil's national policy," he said.

Speaking regarding the WHO Global Centre on Traditional Medicine that will be established in India, PM Modi said, "I have confidence the way India has come up as pharmacy of the world in the same way, this centre of traditional medicine will emerge as a centre of global wellness. This centre will take into great heights the development of medicines and research related to it."

Since 2016, the Ministry of AYUSH has been observing Ayurveda Day every year on the occasion of Dhanwantari Jayanti (Dhanteras).

## Delhi's air quality expected to go in 'severe' category on Diwali: IMD

New Delhi [India], November 13 (ANI): India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted that the Air Quality Index (AQI) of the national capital is expected to go in the 'severe' category on Diwali. "Presently Delhi's Air Quality is very poor and is expected to go worse to severe tomorrow. It can be worse if there are additional emissions. AQI will improve after Diwali and there are chances of drizzle and rain on November

15," Dr VK Soni, Head, Environment and Research Centre of IMD told ANI. "During this period the meteorological conditions are not favourable for good dispersion of air pollutants and further there will be little additional emission from firecrackers and traffic. Although the government has taken a lot of steps to control air pollution, still these external emissions will impact negatively." With the festive weekend ahead, the Air Quality

Index (AQI) in the national capital was in the 'very poor' category, as per the data released by System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), on Friday.

In a bid to prevent the COVID-19 pandemic from worsening owing to poor air quality, the National Green Tribunal imposed a total ban on the sale and use of firecrackers in the National Capital Region from midnight of November 9 to midnight of November 30.



## Agromet Advisory Bulletin

Andaman and Nicobar

Validity Period: 14th to 18th Nov, 2020

Medium Range Weather Forecast: (14th to 18th Nov, 2020)

Partly cloudy weather with light to moderate rainfall is likely to occur during next five days in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The maximum temperature will be 30.1 to 32.0°C with minimum temperature of 25.0 to 25.6°C, whereas the maximum and minimum relative humidity is expected to be in the range of 69 to 81% and 63 to 78%, respectively in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Wind speed of 11.2 to 28.0 kmph is expected from North Easterly direction.

Weather based agro advisories from 14th to 18th Nov, 2020

For South Andaman

(Blocks: Prothrapur, Little-Andaman and Ferrargunj)

- Apply 5 kg FYM + 100 g of neem cake per pit and sow snake gourd seed @ 3 to 4 seeds per pit.
- Transplant the 35 days old seedlings of chilli at spacing of 60 X 60 cm after 10 ton/ha compost as basal application.

- Make basin around the coconut and arecanut and harvest rain water as light to moderate rainfall is expected during next five days.

- Keep the poultry birds (day old chicks) under light preferably of 60 watt bulb at 1 ft above the floor.

- Do anthelmintic treatment to cattle with the consultation of veterinary doctors.

For North and Middle Andaman

(Blocks: Rangat, Mayabunder and Diglipur)

- Apply 5 kg FYM + 100 g of neem cake per pit and sow snake gourd seed @ 3 to 4 seeds per pit.
- Transplant the 35 days old seedlings of chilli at spacing of 60 X 60 cm after 10 ton/ha compost as basal application.

- Make basin around the coconut and arecanut and harvest rain water as light to moderate rainfall is expected during next five days.

- Keep the poultry birds (day old chicks) under light preferably of 60 watt bulb at 1 ft above the floor.

- Do anthelmintic treatment to cattle with the consultation of veterinary doctors.

For Nicobar

(Blocks: Nan-Cowrie, Car-Nicobar and Campbell-Bay)

- Apply 5 kg FYM + 100 g of neem cake per pit and sow snake gourd seed @ 3 to 4 seeds per pit.
- Transplant the 35 days old seedlings of chilli at spacing of 60 X 60 cm after 10 ton/ha compost as basal application.

- Make basin around the coconut and arecanut and harvest rain water as light to moderate rainfall is expected during next five days.

- Keep the poultry birds (day old chicks) under light preferably of 60 watt bulb at 1 ft above the floor.

- Do anthelmintic treatment to cattle with the consultation of veterinary doctors.

## 4.3 magnitude earthquake strikes Andaman Islands

Port Blair (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) [India], November 13 (ANI): An earthquake measuring 4.3 on the Richter scale struck the Andaman Islands on Friday, as per the National Center for Seismology. The quake occurred at 0845 hours today. "Earthquake of magnitude 4.3 on the Richter

scale struck the Andaman Islands at 0845 hours today," said National Center for Seismology. There were no reports of any casualties, injuries or damage to property.

(Contd. from Page 1.)

## ZSI team finds a new Tree-frog genus from....

nal morphology of adults & tadpoles, phylogeny, calls, and breeding biology of several tree frog species widely distributed across South, Southeast, and East Asia and confirmed that they represent a new genus. Frogs of this genus are known to inhabit forested as well as human-dominated landscapes right from Andaman Islands, Northeast India, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, up to southern China. Rohanixalus is the 20th recognized genus of the family Rhacophoridae and currently comprises eight out of the 422 known Old World tree frog species found in Asia and Africa.

Frogs of the new genus are characterized by a rather small and slender body (size about 2 to 3 cm long), a pair of contrastingly colored lateral lines on either side of the body, minute brown speckles scattered throughout the upper body surfaces, light green colored eggs laid in arboreal bubble-nests, and several unique behavioral traits including maternal egg attendance. Based on DNA studies, the new genus is also revealed to be a distinct evolutionary lineage from all previously known tree frog genera. During the breeding season, these tiny reddish-brown frogs can be found in large aggregations on bushes and shrubs (about 1 to 4 meters high) surrounding water bodies. Scientists believe that many more unnamed Rohanixalus species are likely to be present and future dedicated efforts are required to fully understand the existing species diversity in this new genus.

The findings are published in a scientific article titled 'New insights on the systematics and reproductive behaviour in tree frogs of the genus Feihyla, with description of a new related genus from Asia (Anura, Rhacophoridae)' in the current issue (12 November 2020) of Zootaxa, <https://www.mapress.com/jzt/article/view/zootaxa.4878.1.1> an international journal of animal systematics.

(Contd. from Page 1.)

## Vatika begins to attract visitors to buy agri....

to local seasonal squashes/jams and pickles are being sold here. The objective is to have a one stop for sale of various departmental farm produce and also value added products prepared by the department as well as farmers produce. The Department has opened a Farmers corner at Agri Store "VATIKA" for the ease of farmers to sell their agricultural commodities especially value added products and spices as a step towards providing direct marketing to the farmers of these Islands. Accordingly, the farmers are registered as per the guidelines framed and issued with a code no. for selling their produce through the departmental outlet "VATIKA". The amount of the sale proceed is directly deposited in to the account of farmers. For registration and selling the produce/products from VATIKA, interested farmers may contact the Zonal Officers or Assistant Director (Agri) Marketing at Directorate of Agriculture on all working days.

## ICAI makes Port Blair as its exam centre; ABVP hails decision

Port Blair, Nov 13: For the first time, Institution of Chartered Accountant of India will conduct examination at Port Blair. According to a report, ICAI has designated Port Blair as one of the examination centres from this year onwards, so that the willing students from the Is-

lands can appear in its exams and pursue their career in the field of commerce. Meanwhile, in a press release, ABVP has said that ICAI has made this decision on its request and lauded the efforts of Chartered Accountant Vikas Lal Patel (Treasurer, ABVP) on this count.



Swachhta goes for a toss opposite Anumad Bakery at Delanipur. Pigs adding to the filthy conditions is a common sight. Your call, PBMC!

Pix: SHAMIM



Pictures show the pathetic conditions of sanitization at AC of office in Rangat. The hand sanitizer bottle and the tottering foot stand speak a volume about the casual approach towards battling the Covid-19 pandemic

### SEVA SUCHNAYEIN

ALL THE SAILINGS ARE SUBJECT TO WEATHER CONDITIONS

#### FORESHORE SECTOR:

##### SWARAJ DWEEP & SHAHEED DWEEP

- MV Bambooka will now sail for Swaraj Dweep in place of MV Wandoor on 14.11.2020 (Sat) at 1000 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1230 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep via Shaheed Dweep.
- MV Bambooka will now sail for Shaheed Dweep in place of MV Wandoor on 15.11.2020 (Sun) at 1000 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1215 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep via Swaraj Dweep.
- MV Bambooka will now sail for Swaraj Dweep in place of MV Wandoor on 16.11.2020 (Mon) at 1000 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1230 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep via Shaheed Dweep.
- MV Wandoor will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 17.11.2020 (Tue) at 1000 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1215 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep via Swaraj Dweep.
- MV Wandoor will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 18.11.2020 (Wed) at 1000 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1230 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep via Shaheed Dweep.
- MV Wandoor will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 19.11.2020 (Thu) at 1000 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1215 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep via Swaraj Dweep.
- MV Wandoor will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 20.11.2020 (Fri) at 1000 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1230 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep via Shaheed Dweep.
- MV Wandoor will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 21.11.2020 (Sat) at 1000 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1215 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep via Swaraj Dweep.
- MV Wandoor will sail for Swaraj Dweep on 22.11.2020 (Sun) at 1000 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1230 Hrs from Swaraj Dweep via Shaheed Dweep.
- MV Wandoor will sail for Shaheed Dweep on 23.11.2020 (Mon) at 1000 Hrs from Phoenix Bay Jetty and will sail for Port Blair on the same day at 1215 Hrs from Shaheed Dweep via Swaraj Dweep.



**EDITORIAL**

14 November 2020

**They must step up**

An undergraduate student of Delhi University (DU)'s Lady Shri Ram College for Women died by suicide early this month. Her family said the girl took the drastic step because she had to return home to Telangana after classes were suspended due to Covid-19 and her parents, who work in the informal sector, could not afford a laptop for online classes. She had also received a message from the college, asking her to vacate hostel accommodation. She knew her family could not pay for expensive private hostel facilities. With Covid-19, students have been under tremendous stress, across different educational tiers, because of the abrupt transition to digital learning. In India, thousands of poor students see education as a passport to better lives and social mobility, and this sudden disruption has put an extra financial burden on their families. Indian campuses also lack adequate counseling services, and the pandemic has exposed how this lack of a support system can impact students, especially those who come from marginalized backgrounds and have little to no support systems and mentoring facilities at home. This year, as a report in this newspaper revealed, many DU colleges have received more than the usual number of applications for fee waivers from students, indicating the depth of the crisis. DU colleges have said that they are scaling up their outreach program. While this is an excellent step, eight months into the crisis, they should have put in place a system to ensure digital devices, internet connections and counseling services for vulnerable students. DU has access to funds, a strong alumni base and human resources; colleges should leverage these effectively and ensure that students tide over this crisis with minimum pain.

**FASCINATING FACTS**

No matter where you go, it's comforting to know you can always enjoy a Coca-Cola. Well, almost anywhere. While this fizzy drink is sold practically everywhere, it still hasn't (officially) made its way to North Korea or Cuba, according to the BBC. That's because these countries are under long-term U.S. trade embargoes.

**VIEWPOINT****IF THIS REGULATION CAN ENSURE PROTECTION OF DIGITAL PAYMENT ECOSYSTEM****\*ANUPAM MANUR**

The National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) announcement on the limits placed on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions for third-party apps appears to be flawed. Briefly, each third-party app, such as GPay or PhonePe, cannot exceed 30% of the total number of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) transactions. Typically, an obscure and technical regulatory change for a payments system does not draw sharp reactions. Still, given that the number of users and the volume of transactions are rapidly increasing every day, this move can potentially affect a lot of people.

The given justification for this rule by NPCI was to "address the risks and protect the UPI ecosystem as it further scales up". Unfortunately, this justification raises more questions than provides answers. The new rule is both unnecessary and inconsistent for a set of reasons.

For one, there is no empirical evidence of this form of systemic failure until now (except the YES Bank episode, which is a different category altogether). Even if we consider this rule to be forward-looking, NPCI would have been better off seeking technological solutions to a potential technical problem, rather than using crude policy instruments such as placing limits.

Systemic risks are automatically lower when consumers, merchants, and third-party app developers are all multi-hom-

ing, meaning they simultaneously use more than one app for the same purpose. The UPI ecosystem is radically substitutable. In the case of failure, consumers and merchants can switch from one app to another without the slightest friction. Though two apps, PhonePe and GPay, dominate the UPI market (with roughly 80% of UPI transactions), consumers are not without choice — there are at least 52 UPI service providers, 189 issuers and around 21 third-party apps. Third-party app developers also can and do have tie-ups with multiple banks simultaneously, such that the YES bank-PhonePe fiasco will not be repeated.

Beyond being unnecessary, the rule is also improper, incomplete, and inconsistent. If the

which can instantly impact millions of users. Note that NPCI has a virtual monopoly over the UPI architecture and therefore consumers are left with no choice, apart from hard cash and cheques. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) should be taking a closer look at this risk.

Three, whether the justification for the rule is of systemic failure or that of potential market domination, NPCI (a private company, which is a consortium of banks) is not the proper authority to be making rules regarding payments. In the first case, it should be RBI regulating, and in the case of competition issues, it should be the Competition Commission of India looking into the matter.

There is uncertainty about how companies can reduce their share of the total transactions. Companies could place hourly, daily, or monthly limits on the number of transactions for each consumer; restrict the use of UPI to specific use cases; restrict transactions to above a certain minimum amount; or restrict the number of new installs by users.

In all these scenarios, it leads to uncertainty about the app functionality and potentially higher failure rate of transactions.

The better way to reduce systemic risk is to ensure greater competition and lower the entry barriers. The inordinate delay in permitting newer entrants to the market is inexcusable in



aim is to mitigate the systemic risk of failure of one big market player, the rule change should apply to all apps providing UPI services, and not just third-party apps. Is the systemic risk different when the app of a scheduled commercial bank fails as against a third-party app?

Two, in terms of systemic risk, the most significant one is that of the UPI architecture failing,

this regard. Having a combination of third-party apps, domestic banks, and niche payment platforms is an effective solution to mitigate risk and should be preferred to the sledge hammer-like instrument of placing caps on the number of transactions.

\* The writer is an Assistant Professor of Economics, Takshashila Institution



## Biden clinches victory in Arizona, taking his victorious electoral count to 290



Washington [US], November 13 (ANI): US President-elect Joe Biden has narrowly won Arizona, capturing the state's 11 electoral votes and strengthening his Electoral College margin, while President Donald Trump has not yet conceded defeat in the presidential elections, reported New York Times. The Arizona victory brings Biden to 290 electoral votes, 20 more than required to clinch the White House. The President-

elect's margin is currently about 11,000 votes, or 0.3 per cent. Biden is the first Democratic presidential candidate to carry the state since former President Bill Clinton in 1996. Four years ago, Trump had won the state by 3.5 percentage points. According to New York Times, Biden's win underscored a profound political shift in Arizona, a longtime Republican bastion that has lurched left in recent years, fueled by rapidly evolving

demographics and a growing contingent of young Hispanic voters championing liberal policies. Meanwhile, Republicans have been mounting legal attempts for a recount in key battleground states.

The Trump campaign has filed a lawsuit in Arizona, alleging that poll workers in the state's largest county, Maricopa, improperly pressured voters to enter their vote in a way that would incorrectly reject votes.

Biden on Saturday became the President-elect of the United States after victory in the battleground state of Pennsylvania, which took him past the electoral college threshold of 270 votes. He defeated President Donald Trump in a closely contested election to become the 46th president of the United States.

## Coronavirus lockdown in France to remain in effect until December: Prime Minister

Moscow [Russia], November 13 (ANI/Sputnik): French Prime Minister Jean Castex has announced that the nationwide stay-at-home regime will remain in effect amid still disturbing indicators of the COVID-19 virus' evolution in the country.

"Together with the President of the Republic [Emmanuel Macron], we decided this morning in the Council of defense and national security to keep unchanged, at least for the next fifteen days, the rules of lockdown intended to fight against # COVID19," Castex tweeted late on Thursday. The prime minister said that the impact from the second coronavirus

outbreak is tough, specifying in a separate tweet that up to 500 COVID-19 patients have died each day over the past week, which makes each one in four of the deaths in France due to the pandemic. Moreover, he added, current numbers of coronavirus hospitalizations have surpassed the April peak, with one hospitalization confirmed each half a minute and intensive care cases linked to the epidemic occurring every three minutes.

Castex noted that over the past week, the infection rate has decreased by 16 per cent, marking "the first expected effects" of the state counter-

virus strategy. However, he urged the nation to remain cautious until the "positive" trend of the slowing pandemic "is confirmed over time". The government has imposed the general lockdown on October 30 in the wake of a sharp resurgence in COVID-19 cases over the month. While the record daily high since the beginning of the pandemic has been reached on November 7, counting nearly 87,000 cases, new restrictions forced closures of non-essential businesses, stores, and public places. As of Friday, France has confirmed 1,915,282 coronavirus cases and 42,599 related fatalities.

## Former Australian PM Malcolm Turnbull urges country to not buckle under pressure from China

Canberra [Australia], November 13 (ANI): Former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said Australia should not buckle under pressure from an onslaught of trade actions from Beijing and change its stance on controversial bilateral issues with China.

China continues to apply trade actions to Australian exports, with informal bans or import duties targeting products ranging from coal, cotton, and timber to wine, lobster and beef, reported Finbarr Bermingham for South China Morning Post (SCMP). "I went through an episode precisely like this in 2017 and 2018. And we stuck to our position, we didn't succumb to the pressure. And once it was apparent in Beijing that the pressure was not producing the result they wanted, it dropped off. So I think you just have to stand

your ground," said Turnbull.

During Turnbull's tenure, Beijing had lashed out at Canberra due to Australia siding with an international tribunal's decision that China had no historical claim to the disputed South China Sea islands, and the banning of Huawei Technologies Co and ZTE from Australia's 5G network and Turnbull's introduction of foreign interference laws were seen as targeting Chinese influence in Australian politics.

Birmingham wrote that in recent days, a series of Chinese government officials have said Australia needs to make the first move in repairing the bilateral relationship, which has frayed since Australia led calls in April for an international inquiry into the source of the coronavirus.

However, Turnbull rejected such

calls, encouraging his successors in government to 'stand firm'.

"The one thing you cannot do with Beijing or any other superpower is become sycophantic or to demonstrate that you will just buckle whenever the pressure is ratcheted up, you get no thanks for it - you get less respect," SCMP quoted Turnbull, who was speaking at a Peterson Institute for International Economics webinar on Friday. Turnbull was the Australian Prime Minister between 2015 and 2018, when political relations with China began to sour, even as commerce soared following the signing of a bilateral free trade deal in 2015.

China is Australia's biggest trading partner, buying 39 per cent of Australia's exports.

## STAR TRACK



Today, a romantic link-up is about to be delivered at your doorstep, all wrapped in silver and tinsel! So, Ganesha hopes you are prepared. Don your best attire, check your breath and practice some sweet-talking. After all, who knows what the evening will lead to? Only Ganesha, and he's smiling an impish grin! Need more clue?



It is highly unlikely that you will be emotional and sentimental today, predicts Ganesha. Adopt a laid-back attitude towards life to feel at ease. Public servants will have encouraging and affirmative results in their efforts. Your competency will be put to test at the work place.



Today is an important day to completely immerse yourself in your favourite activities, says Ganesha. But don't forget that loved ones come first as lack of warmth may affect family life. Show your family members that you care. New relationships are also on the anvil. It is an eventful and positive day for you.



At work, your ability to forge great partnerships will see to the success of one of your ambitious projects. However, you need to be careful before signing the contract. It's always important to go through the finer details of a deal before closing it.



Reinvention and rejuvenation — these are the two words that shall dictate your philosophy for the day. Refurbishing oneself does not always have to be in accordance with something new; taking a look back can be equally enlightening. In any case, it's a small world, and, hence, chances are that you shall revive most of your old contacts either in a social occasion or an official meeting. Do not discount the importance of reconnecting with your near and dear ones, advises Ganesha.



Achievement and accomplishment will be the highlights of the day, notes Ganesha. You will be recognised for your devotion to work and determination to succeed at your workplace. Much awaited promotions may come and financial arrears may also reach your hands.



You will be very active today, especially when it comes to finishing tasks in office. Your thoughts will reach new heights and you will be able to motivate and stimulate others to perform. Your motto for the day is 'Arise, awake and sleep not till the goal is reached'.



Your close friends and loved ones seem to be on the menu today, predicts Ganesha. Romantic brilliance will usher in happiness and favourable business prospects will be the icing on the cake. Your charm will peak and you will enjoy the attention you get out of it. Try your hands at creative things as there is a good chance that you may come home bragging about the results.



Be ready with your bags packed as you may decide to undertake an impromptu trip today. It could be a business trip or simply travel in pursuit of pleasure. Nostalgia will grip you as you run into an old childhood friend today. Sharpen your public relation skills, which will come in handy when you deal with strangers today, says Ganesha.



Recognition and rewards are awaiting you at work, and unlike in most cases, colleagues won't be envious of your success. They will, in fact, provide the much-needed motivation for taking up new and challenging projects, says Ganesha. For those of you looking to switch jobs, wait awhile, this may not be the right time. You will be showered with better job opportunities, but it will be wise of you to wait till you strike the right deal.



Today will be about pleasure and pain! Plumbing, cleaning, grocery shopping, cooking... you can expect anything to weigh you down. Later, you can relax in a hot soak by candlelight, or unwind with a soothing aromatic massage. Ganesha says you'll be grateful for the pleasures only after the pain.



While you may have a wide circle of acquaintances, it is only a select few who you bless with your munificence. And that is precisely what you will be busy with, as a day filled with socialising and leisure-filled activities beckons, says Ganesha.



## Producer Ajay Devgn hopes to inspire every child, parent through 'Chhalaang'



Mumbai (Maharashtra) [India], November 13 (ANI): As the Rajkummar Rao starrer film 'Chhalaang' premieres today on Amazon Prime Video, the actor and film's producer Ajay Devgn divulged what makes this film special and how a movie such as this is imperative in today's time.

Talking about of the film, Devgn said, the 'Singham' said, "Chhalaang is an inspirational script. We have seen good films on sports, coaches and players,

but a film on a PT teacher and school kids is new. We hope to inspire kids and their parents to promote physical activity through sports. The earlier generation was more involved in outdoor activities and sports because we didn't have access to gadgets and gizmos. Today, children miss out on this aspect." Adding further to this, the 'Golmaal' star also laid emphasis on the film's social commentary not only being relevant to children but also every parent

just like him.

"In fact, I encourage my son to go outdoors as much as possible. We as parents also have to contribute to it. The messaging in Chhalaang is the need of the hour. It's a reminder of the school days when physical training (PT) and outdoor sports were a big draw. Chhalaang is a wholesome film that will entertain and motivate us," he added.

With the double, the delight of Children's Day and Diwali, the Rajkummar Rao and Nushratt Bharucha starrer family entertainer has released in a sensational way amidst immense love and appreciation from fans and audiences at large.

The film also stars Saurabh Shukla, Satish Kaushik, Zeeshan Ayyub, Ila Arun and Jatin Sarna in pivotal roles.

Directed by Hansal Mehta, produced by Ajay Devgn, Luv Ranjan & Ankur Garg and is streaming globally on Amazon Prime Video.

## On 'Jab Tak Hai Jaan' anniversary, AR Rahman reveals favourite song

New Delhi [India], November 13 (ANI): As Yash Chopra's timeless romantic 'Jab Tak Hai Jaan,' completed eight years on Friday, musician AR Rahman reminisced his experience of creating the soul-stirring music for the Shah Rukh Khan and Katrina Kaif-starrer.

Being a prolific musician, every song and album that Rahman has ever created holds a special place in his heart. The maestro revealed that 'Heer' is his favourite song from 'Jab Tak Hai Jaan.' "I think my favourite from the film is 'Heer Heer'. Because that's one song with which they gave me a lot of freedom. They just gave me the lyrics and said, 'This is a filler song. We just need 30 seconds of it.' And once we recorded it, Yash ji asked me, 'You're not Punjabi. How come you got all the Punjabi nuances?' I said, 'Music doesn't need... you don't have to live in Punjab to compose a Punjabi song,' the Oscar-winning musician

said.

"Because in India, we're all interconnected, you know? Our traditions are interconnected and we value each other; we respect each other's cultures.' So, that actually turns into an influence too. It has a vibe but it's still not the typical one," he added.

Rahman also remembered fondly working with late legendary filmmaker Yash Chopra for the first time in 'Jab Tak Hai Jaan.'

"I think it was a great honour working with such a stalwart. You know, you expect certain things from such an experienced person, but then he always picks the most innovative idea; he had that extra quality in him to pick new things and yet ground it in tradition," Rahman said.

On the film's 8th anniversary, he further opened up about the creative process that he shared with Chopra while producing the music of the film. "The subject was one of my favourites and so, I went with

the flow. The process of making music in Mumbai, in my studios and their studios, was... we just kept shuttling," he said.

"I know that he (Yash Chopra) never went to other studios but he was kind enough to come and hang out with Gulzar saab; [it was] all three of us. The music-making process was very memorable," he added.

The 53-year-old musician then opened up about the vision that legendary lyricist and poet Gulzar had for the film as he wrote its songs.

"Whenever you work with Mr. Gulzar... he works a certain poetry himself, you know? In the way he gestures and the way he talks; his eyes are filled with love and wisdom," he said.

"So, it was interesting to work with both of them. Sometimes, we would work and break the Ramadan fast together, all three of us. So, it was really cool that way," the 'Patakhla Guddi,' musician added. (ANI)

## 7-year-old prodigy becomes the world's youngest author and Grand Master in Writing



New Delhi, November 13 (ANI): The 7-year-old Abhijita Gupta has been recognized as the world's youngest author by the International Book of Records, while the Asia Book of Records has conferred on her title of the 'Grandmaster in Writing.' According to the India Book of Records, she is the youngest author to write poetry and prose. Her book titled 'Happiness All Around' is an anthology of short stories and poems with illustrations acclaimed globally. The book gives us insight into the cognitive ability and interests of a 7-year-old child. The illustrations reflect her fertile imagination.

For Abhijita, writing is the elixir of positivity. Belonging to the third generation of the renowned poet duo-Rashtrakavi Maithilisharan Gupta and Santkavi Shri Siyaramsharan Gupta, creativity abounds in her veins. Abhijita, currently a student in Class 2, started writing at the tender age of 5 years. The maximum of her writing took place during the COVID-19 lockdown that served as a medium to maintain positivity. Little did she know that she would go on to achieve the title of the 'Grand Master.' Sharing about her passion for writing, she

says: "The surroundings and even the little things inspire me. I write about positive things - what I hear, see or feel." Abhijita also enlightened on her favourite poems- 'Mother Earth', 'Let's try, let's fly', 'Study is my best buddy', and 'Precious Friendship.'

Abhijita is the only talented daughter of Ashish Gupta, a chartered accountant by profession and Anupriya Gupta who is an engineer-turned-entrepreneur. She stays in Ghaziabad with her parents.

Elated with her achievements, her parents said, "Every parent has a dream to be known by his child. For us, it came too soon. Abhijita's book will leave a positive impact on society and inspire kids of her age."

'Happiness All Around' is for children and is among the few to be authored by a kid. It has been published by Invincible Publishers and is available both as a hard copy and a Kindle edition.

Her next book elucidating her views on the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on children will also be released.

This story is provided by NewsVair. ANI will not be responsible in any way for the content of this article.

## Big B digs out priceless throwback picture to extend Diwali wishes

Mumbai (Maharashtra) [India], November 13 (ANI): Megastar Amitabh Bachchan on Friday dug out a priceless throwback family picture to extend wishes to his fans ahead of Diwali on social media. The 'Zanjeer' star took to Instagram and posted a monochromatic picture on Twitter to send wishes ahead of the festival of lights- Diwali. In the picture, Big B and Jaya, both are seen holding a sparkler as they looked beaming with happiness. The throwback picture also captures two little children - Abhishek and Shweta as they cherish the festivities with their star parents. Senior Bachchan captioned the

post as, "Dipawali ki anek badhayein va shubhakamnayein ! sukh shaanti samrddhi aur apaar sneh. (Many Diwali greetings and best wishes! Happiness peace, prosperity and immense affection)." In another tweet, the 'Thugs of Hindostan' star shared a couple of pictures of earthen lamps and send out the message to "merge yourself in this light of lights," and extended wishes for the festival. He tweeted, "Dipawali ki anek anek shubhakamnayein. (Many happy wishes of Diwali)." The festival of lights, Diwali or Deepavali, is celebrated in honour of Lord Ram and his victory in the battle against the demon king Ravan.



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